

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON AMBASSADOR SNEIDER ARRIVAL

TUESDAY EDITORIALS IN MASS-CIRCULATION JOONGANG ILBO AND PRO-GOVERNMENT KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN SAW AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S ARRIVAL IN SEOUL AS POSSIBLE TURNING POINT IN ROKG-USG RELATIONS, ARGUING THAT AMBASSADOR'S PERCEPTION OF KOREAN "REALITY" WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND OFFSET RECENT ADVERSE CONGRESSIONAL AND MEDIA CRITICISM DURING PERIOD OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SHIFT. END SUMMARY.

JOONGANG ILBO: "BECAUSE ROK-US RELATIONS ARE AT A SUBTLE TURNING POINT THE KOREAN PEOPLE WILL SCRUTINIZE (AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S) EVERY WORD AND ACTION.....RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN ISING CRITICISM OF THE ROK INTERNAL SITUATION AMONG U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND INTELLECTUALS.....RESULTING IN CONCRETE MOVES TOWARD AID CUTS AND TROOP REDUCTIONS AND REDEPLOYMENTS.... PRESIDENT FORD IS RELATIVELY UNFAMILIAR WITH ASIAN AFFAIRS AND IS LIKELY TO RELY HEAVILY ON STATE DEPT EXPERTS AND AMBASSADORS CONCERNING POLICY DECISIONS.....WE HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR SNEIDER WILL ACCURATELY GRASP THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THE KOREAN SITUATION, BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND BECOME A GOOD SAMARITAN FOR THE KOREAN PEOPLE..."

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 06243 191012Z

KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN: "WE TRUST THAT (AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S)
ASSUMPTION OF HIS POST HERE WILL MARK A NEW TURNING IN
ROK-US RELATIONS AND IN MENDING ROK RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AS
WELL...WITH OUR CONCERN DEEPENING OVER THE ACCELERATING PACE
OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SHIFTS, WE EXPECT THAT WITH HIS
CORRECT ASSESSMENT OF THE KOREAN SITUATION, AMBASSADOR SNEIDER
WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN TRADITIONAL CLOSE TIES." CONGRESSIONAL
PRESSURE ON KOREA, INCLUDING "RECKLESS" AID CUTS, AND TALK
OF TROOP REDUCTIONS AND REDEPLOYMENTS "ALL STEM FROM MISJUDG-
MENT OF THE KOREAN SITUATION. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S
EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE...WILL BE HELPFUL IN PURSUIT OF THE
ROK-US JOINT GOAL OF PEACE..."
SNEIDER

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